

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRIDGE 02416 081821Z

53

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

ACDA-07 /059 W

----- 045889

P R 081428Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1902

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRIDGETOWN 2416

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, GJ

SUBJ: GAIRY WINS A NARROW VICTORY

REF: BRIDGETOWN 2393

1. CONFOUNDING OUR ELECTION EVE PREDICTION THAT HE STOOD LESS THAN AN EVEN CHANCE, GRENADA PRIMIN ERIC M. GAIRY'S GRENADA UNITED LABOUR PARTY (GULP) APPEARS TO HAVE WON A THREE SEAT MAJORITY IN THE ISLAND'S LEGISLATURE. IF THE PRELIMINARY COUNT IS CONFIRMED BY THE OFFICIAL TALLY UNDERWAY NOW, HIS VICTORY IS MUCH CLOSER THAN THE NEW 9-6 PARLIAMENTARY LINEUP INDICATES; A TOTAL SHIFT OF APPROXIMATELY 140 VOTES IN TWO CONSTITUENCIES WOULD HAVE LEFT GAIRY IN THE MINORITY WITH SEVEN SEATS TO THE ALLIANCE'S EIGHT.

2. POLLING WAS HEAVY AND REPORTEDLY PEACEFUL AND SO FAR WE'VE ONLY ONE UNCONFIRMED REPORT OF SOME FIGHTING IN THE NORTH OF THE ISLAND LATE LAST NIGHT AND EARLY THIS MORNING. THE ALLIANCE IS EXPECTED TO CHALLENGE SOME OF THE GULP WINS DURING TODAY'S OFFICIAL COUNT AND THE GOVT'S TREATMENT OF THEIR CHALLENGES COULD

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DETERMINE WHETHER THERE'S REAL VIOLENCE. AT THIS POINT

IT APPEARS THE CHANCE OF AVOIDING REAL VIOLENCE IS GOOD.
HOWEVER, THE VIOLENCE IN 1974 DEVELOPED SLOWLY AND ALTHOUGH
THIS TIME AROUND THE OPPOSITION NJM HAS SWORN NOT TO MAKE
WHAT THEY REGARD AS A SIMILAR MISTAKE, THE 1974 PATTERN
CONCEIVABLY COULD BE REPEATED.
WOOLLONS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS, LABOR OBJECTIVES, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BRIDGE02416
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760453-1137
From: BRIDGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761260/aaaabzev.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BRIDGETOWN 2393
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <14 JUL 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GAIRY WINS A NARROW VICTORY
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, GJ, GULP, (GAIRY, ERIC M)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006